

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following new claims have been added.

1. (Original) A digital to analog converter (DAC) comprising:
 - a first capacitance and a second capacitance configured in a first switching circuit;
 - wherein the first switching circuit is configured as an input capacitance of a switched capacitor integrator;
 - wherein the first switching circuit is operable to redistribute charge stored on the first capacitance, to be shared substantially equally by the first capacitance and the second capacitance;
 - wherein the first switching circuit is further operable to redistribute charge stored on the second capacitance, to be shared substantially equally by the first capacitance and the second capacitance;
 - wherein applying a first-pass switching sequence to the first switching circuit for converting a binary number results in a first voltage across the first capacitance and across the second capacitance;
 - wherein applying a complementary switching sequence corresponding to the first-pass switching sequence to the first switching circuit for converting the binary number results in a second voltage across the first capacitance and across the second capacitance;
 - wherein, in applying the first-pass switching sequence, the first capacitance is charged to a conversion level a first number of times and the second capacitance is charged to the conversion level a second number of times;
 - wherein in applying the complementary switching sequence, the first capacitance is charged to the conversion level the second number of times and the second capacitance is charged to the conversion level the first number of times;
 - wherein, in applying the first-pass switching sequence, if the first capacitance is charged to the conversion level for a respective bit of the binary number then the second capacitance is not charged to the conversion level for the respective bit, and in applying the complementary switching sequence the first capacitance is not charged to the conversion level for the respective bit, but the second capacitance is;

wherein, in applying the first-pass switching sequence, if the second capacitance is charged to the conversion level for the respective bit, then the first capacitance is not charged to the conversion level for the respective bit, and in applying the complementary switching sequence the second capacitance is not charged to the conversion level for the respective bit, but the first capacitance is;

wherein the first-pass switching sequence and the corresponding complementary switching sequence form a conversion sequence for the binary number, wherein for each bit of the binary number, charge is redistributed between the first capacitance and the second capacitance;

wherein an integrated sum of the first voltage and the second voltage comprises a DAC output voltage free of odd-order errors, wherein if the first voltage is obtained from the first capacitance then the second voltage is obtained from the second capacitance, and if the first voltage is obtained from the second capacitance then the second voltage is obtained from the first capacitance;

wherein performing the conversion sequence a specified number of times and integrating the DAC output voltage at the end of each conversion sequence results in a final DAC output voltage;

wherein the final DAC output voltage is free of odd-order capacitor mismatch errors; and

wherein the final DAC output voltage is free of second-order capacitor mismatch errors for up to a specified number of bits.

2. (Original) The DAC of claim 1;

wherein the switched capacitor integrator comprises a first operational transconductance amplifier (OTA); and

wherein the first switching circuit is coupled to an inverting input of the first OTA.

3. (Original) The DAC of claim 1, further comprising a hold circuit coupled to an output of the switched capacitor integrator, wherein the hold circuit is operable to hold the final DAC output voltage.

4. (Original) The DAC of claim 3, wherein the hold circuit comprises:
a second OTA; and
a hold capacitor coupled to a non-inverting input of the second OTA;
wherein the output of the switched capacitor integrator is coupled to the non-inverting input of the second OTA.

5. (Original) The DAC of claim 1, wherein a value of the first capacitance is substantially the same as a value of the second capacitance.

6. (Original) The DAC of claim 1;
wherein if a bit value for the respective bit is 1, then the conversion level is a reference voltage; and
wherein if the bit value for the respective bit is 0, then the conversion level is common ground.

7. (Original) A method for digital to analog conversion of a binary number, the method comprising:

performing a conversion sequence a specified number of times, wherein the conversion sequence comprises:

applying a first-pass switching sequence to a first switching circuit comprising a first capacitance and a second capacitance, resulting in a first voltage across the first capacitance and across the second capacitance;

integrating the first voltage;

applying a complementary switching sequence corresponding to the first-pass switching sequence to the first switching circuit, resulting in a second voltage across the first capacitance and across the second capacitance; and

integrating the second voltage;

wherein if during said integrating the first voltage, the first voltage is obtained from the first capacitance then during said integrating the second voltage, the second voltage is obtained from the second capacitance, and if during said integrating the first

voltage, the first voltage is obtained from the second capacitance then during said integrating the second voltage, the second voltage is obtained from the first capacitance;

wherein said applying the first-pass switching sequence comprises charging the first capacitance to a conversion level a first number of times and charging the second capacitance to the conversion level a second number of times;

wherein said applying the complementary switching sequence comprises charging the first capacitance to the conversion level the second number of times and charging the second capacitance to the conversion level the first number of times;

wherein, if charging the first capacitance in said applying the first-pass switching sequence is performed for a respective bit of the binary number, then charging the second capacitance in said applying the first-pass switching sequence is not performed for the respective bit, and charging the first capacitance in said applying the complementary switching sequence is not performed for the respective bit, but charging the second capacitance in said applying the complementary switching sequence is performed;

wherein, if charging the second capacitance in said applying the first-pass switching sequence is performed for the respective bit, then charging the first capacitance in said applying the first-pass switching sequence is not performed for the respective bit, and charging the second capacitance in said applying the complementary switching sequence is not performed for the respective bit, but charging the first capacitance in said applying the complementary switching sequence is performed;

wherein said applying the first-pass switching sequence and said applying the complementary switching sequence each comprise redistributing charge stored on the first capacitance and the second capacitance to be shared substantially equally between the first capacitance and the second capacitance for each bit of the binary number;

wherein said performing the conversion sequence the specified number of times results in a final DAC output voltage;

wherein the final DAC output voltage is free of odd-order capacitor mismatch errors; and

wherein the final DAC output voltage is free of second-order capacitor mismatch errors for up to a specified number of bits.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein a value of the first capacitance is substantially the same as a value of the second capacitance.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7;
wherein if a bit value for the respective bit is 1, then the conversion level is a reference voltage; and
wherein if the bit value for the respective bit is 0, then the conversion level is common ground.

10. (Original) The method of claim 7;
wherein the first number is different for each conversion sequence in said performing the conversion sequence a specified number of times; and
wherein the second number is different for each conversion sequence in said performing the conversion sequence a specified number of times.

11. (Original) A method for operating a DAC for converting a binary number comprising one or more bits, wherein the DAC comprises a switched capacitor integrator and a first switching circuit comprising a first capacitor and a second capacitor of substantially equal values configured in parallel, wherein the first switching circuit is configured as an input capacitance of the switched capacitor integrator, the method comprising:

performing a conversion sequence a specified number of times, resulting in a final DAC output voltage and a corresponding final output charge, the conversion sequence comprising;

selecting a first subset of the one or more bits and a second subset of the one or more bits, wherein the first subset and the second subset are mutually exclusive, and wherein a union of the first subset and the second subset equal the one or more bits;

performing a first charging sequence for each bit of the first subset;

performing a second charging sequence for each bit of the second subset;

integrating a first output voltage present across the first capacitor, resulting in a first intermediate DAC output voltage and a corresponding first output charge;

performing the first charging sequence for each bit of the second subset;

and

performing the second charging sequence for each bit of the first subset;

integrating a second output voltage present across the second capacitor, resulting in a second intermediate DAC output voltage and a corresponding second output charge;

wherein the first charging sequence comprises:

charging the first capacitor to a conversion voltage level resulting in a first conversion charge on the first capacitor;

redistributing the first conversion charge and a first previous charge present on the second capacitor between the first capacitor and the second capacitor;

wherein the second charging sequence comprises:

charging the second capacitor to a conversion voltage level resulting in a second conversion charge on the second capacitor;

redistributing the second conversion charge and a second previous charge present on the first capacitor between the first capacitor and the second capacitor;

wherein the final DAC output voltage is free of odd-order capacitor mismatch errors between the first capacitor and the second capacitor;

wherein the final DAC output voltage is free of second-order capacitor mismatch errors between the first capacitor and the second capacitor, for up to a specified number of bits.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11;

wherein for a bit value of 1 the conversion level is a reference voltage; and

wherein for a bit value of 0 the conversion level is a common ground.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11;

wherein the first subset is uniquely different for each conversion sequence of said performing the conversion sequence the specified number of times; and

wherein the second subset is uniquely different for each conversion sequence of said performing the conversion sequence the specified number of times.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising:

transferring the final DAC output voltage to a hold circuit coupled to the switched capacitor integrator; and

holding the final DAC output voltage on the hold circuit.

15. (Original) The method of claim 11;

wherein performing the first charging sequence comprises performing the first charging sequence from LSB to MSB; and

wherein performing the second charging sequence comprises performing the second charging sequence from LSB to MSB.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11;

wherein said selecting the first subset a specified number of times and said selecting the second subset a specified number of times are performed in a manner that even-order capacitor mismatch errors are minimized in order of priority from MSB to LSB.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11;

wherein said selecting the first subset a specified number of times and said selecting the second subset a specified number of times are performed in a manner that second-order capacitor mismatch errors are eliminated in order of priority from MSB to LSB down to a specified number of bits.

18. (Original) The method of claim 11;

wherein the conversion sequence further comprises transferring the second output charge to the first capacitor and the second capacitor.

19. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising transferring the final output charge to the first capacitor and the second capacitor, resulting in a new final DAC output voltage.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 further comprising:
transferring the new final DAC output voltage to a hold circuit coupled to the switched capacitor integrator; and
holding the new final DAC output voltage on the hold circuit.

21. (New) A method for digital to analog conversion, the method comprising:
performing a first charge redistribution on a switching circuit comprising a first capacitance and a second capacitance, the first and second capacitances being substantially equal in size and subject to a capacitance mismatch error;
performing a second charge redistribution on the switching circuit, wherein the second charge redistribution is performed in a complementary fashion to the first charge redistribution, thereby producing two charge distributions; and
summing the two charge distributions, thereby producing a first output voltage representative of a converted binary number and substantially free of odd-order components of the capacitance mismatch error.

22. (New) The method of claim 21;
wherein said performing the first charge redistribution comprises charging the first capacitance to a conversion level a first number of times and charging the second capacitance to the conversion level a second number of times; and
wherein said performing the second charge redistribution comprises charging the first capacitance to the conversion level the second number of times and charging the second capacitance to the conversion level the first number of times.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein if charging the first capacitance during said performing the first charge redistribution is performed for a respective bit of

the binary number, then charging the second capacitance during said performing the first charge redistribution is not performed for the respective bit, and charging the first capacitance during said performing the second charge redistribution is not performed for the respective bit, but charging the second capacitance during said performing the second charge redistribution is performed for the respective bit.

24. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein if charging the second capacitance during said performing the first charge redistribution is performed for the respective bit, then charging the first capacitance during said performing the first charge redistribution is not performed for the respective bit, and charging the second capacitance during said performing the second charge redistribution is not performed for the respective bit, but charging the first capacitance during said performing the second charge redistribution is performed for the respective bit.

25. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein said performing the first charge redistribution and said performing the second charge redistribution each comprise redistributing charge stored on the first capacitance and the second capacitance to be shared substantially equally between the first capacitance and the second capacitance for each bit of the binary number.

26. (New) The method of claim 21 further comprising performing the first charge redistribution, the second charge redistribution, and said summing a specified number of times, thereby producing a second output voltage;

wherein each time the first charge redistribution and the second charge redistribution are performed, said performing the first charge redistribution and said performing the second charge redistribution comprise charging the first capacitance and the second capacitance in a respective specified sequence; and

wherein each respective specified sequence is determined such that in performing the first charge redistribution, the second charge redistribution, and said summing the specified number of times, even-order components of the capacitance mismatch error present in the second output voltage are reduced.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein each respective specified sequence is determined such that in performing the first charge redistribution, the second charge redistribution, and said summing the specified number of times, the second output voltage is substantially free of second-order components of the capacitance mismatch error for up to a specified number of bits.

28. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the second output voltage is a final DAC output voltage.

29. (New) The method of claim 21;
wherein said performing the first charge redistribution comprises:
 applying a first switching sequence to the switching circuit, thereby producing a first voltage across the first capacitance and across the second capacitance;
and
 integrating the first voltage;
wherein said performing the second charge redistribution comprises:
 applying a complementary switching sequence corresponding to the first switching sequence to the switching circuit, thereby producing a second voltage across the first capacitance and across the second capacitance; and
 integrating the second voltage; and
wherein if during said integrating the first voltage, the first voltage is obtained from the first capacitance, then during said integrating the second voltage, the second voltage is obtained from the second capacitance, and if during said integrating the first voltage, the first voltage is obtained from the second capacitance, then during said integrating the second voltage, the second voltage is obtained from the first capacitance.

30. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the first output voltage is a final DAC output voltage.

31. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the first switching circuit is configured as an input capacitance of a switched capacitor integrator.

32. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein the switched capacitor integrator is comprised in a DAC.

33. (New) A system operable to perform digital to analog conversion, the system comprising:

a switched capacitor integrator; and

a switching circuit configured as an input capacitance of the switched capacitor integrator and comprising a first capacitance coupled to a second capacitance, the first and second capacitances substantially equal in size and subject to a capacitance mismatch error;

wherein the switching circuit is operable to redistribute charge stored on the first capacitance, to be shared substantially equally by the first capacitance and the second capacitance;

wherein the switching circuit is further operable to redistribute charge stored on the second capacitance, to be shared substantially equally by the first capacitance and the second capacitance;

wherein performing a first charge redistribution and a corresponding second charge redistribution on the switching circuit for converting a binary number results in two charge distributions;

wherein the second charge redistribution is performed in a complementary fashion to the corresponding first charge redistribution; and

wherein the switched capacitor integrator is operable to produce a first output voltage representative of the binary number and substantially free of odd-order components of the capacitance mismatch error by summing the two charge distributions.

34. (New) The system of claim 33, wherein the first charge redistribution, the corresponding second charge redistribution, and said summing form a conversion

sequence for the binary number, wherein for each bit of the binary number, charge is redistributed between the first capacitance and the second capacitance.

35. (New) The system of claim 34, wherein performing the conversion sequence a specified number of times and integrating the first output voltage at the end of each conversion sequence results in a final output voltage representative of the binary number and substantially free of second-order capacitor mismatch errors for up to a specified number of bits.

36. (New) The system of claim 33;

wherein performing the first charge redistribution comprises applying a first switching sequence to the switching circuit, thereby producing a first voltage across the first capacitance and across the second capacitance; and

wherein performing the second charge redistribution comprises applying a complementary switching sequence corresponding to the first switching sequence to the first switching circuit, thereby producing a second voltage across the first capacitance and across the second capacitance.

37. (New) The system of claim 36;

wherein, in applying the first switching sequence, the first capacitance is charged to a conversion level a first number of times and the second capacitance is charged to the conversion level a second number of times; and

wherein in applying the complementary switching sequence, the first capacitance is charged to the conversion level the second number of times and the second capacitance is charged to the conversion level the first number of times.

38. (New) The system of claim 37;

wherein, in applying the first switching sequence, if the first capacitance is charged to the conversion level for a respective bit of the binary number then the second capacitance is not charged to the conversion level for the respective bit, and in applying the complementary switching sequence the first capacitance is not charged to the

conversion level for the respective bit, but the second capacitance is charged to the conversion level for the respective bit; and

wherein, in applying the first switching sequence, if the second capacitance is charged to the conversion level for the respective bit, then the first capacitance is not charged to the conversion level for the respective bit, and in applying the complementary switching sequence the second capacitance is not charged to the conversion level for the respective bit, but the first capacitance is charged to the conversion level for the respective bit.

39. (New) The system of claim 36, wherein an integrated sum of the first voltage and the second voltage comprises a second output voltage representative of the binary number and substantially free of odd-order error components of the capacitance mismatch error.

40. (New) The system of claim 36, wherein if the first voltage is obtained from the first capacitance then the second voltage is obtained from the second capacitance, and if the first voltage is obtained from the second capacitance then the second voltage is obtained from the first capacitance.

42. (New) The system of claim 33;

wherein the switched capacitor integrator comprises a first operational transconductance amplifier (OTA); and

wherein the switching circuit is coupled to an inverting input of the first OTA.

43. (New) The system of claim 33, further comprising a hold circuit coupled to an output of the switched capacitor integrator, wherein the hold circuit is operable to hold the final output voltage.

44. (New) The system of claim 43, wherein the hold circuit comprises:

a second OTA; and

a hold capacitor coupled to a non-inverting input of the second OTA;

wherein the output of the switched capacitor integrator is coupled to the non-inverting input of the second OTA.